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BARNARD CASTLE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL  
REPORT



of the  
Medical Officer  
of Health

FOR THE YEAR  
1953



*Barnard Castle*  
*Rural District Council*

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*Annual Report*

*of the*

*Medical Officer*  
*of Health*

*for the Year 1953*



# *Barnard Castle Rural District Council*

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Health Department,  
43, Galgate,  
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Vane and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1953.

During the year further progress was made with schemes which will improve public health conditions in your area. The new scheme of supply of water to the villages of Cockfield, Hilton and Wackerfield was completed, and work on the new sewage works for Middleton-in-Teesdale was commenced. I hope that something will be done in the near future for the parishes of Eggleston and Bildershaw which are still without an adequate water supply.

There was an increase of 34 in the number of houses completed and occupied compared with the previous year (54 in 1952 and 88 in 1953) but there is still an urgent need for more.

The vital statistics are again satisfactory. There was an increase of 31 in the total number of live-births and a further fall in the number of deaths (219 in 1952 and 197 in 1953). This latter figure is particularly satisfactory in view of the fact that the total population is estimated to have increased by 450 compared with the previous year. There were only 4 infant deaths compared with 6 in 1952 and 9 in 1950 and 1951. Finally there was a very marked decline in the incidence of scarlet fever, there being only 5 confirmed cases compared with 37 in the previous year.

I am again indebted to the Council and to my fellow officials for their help and co-operation in matters relating to my department.

I am, Miss Vane and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Academic Lond.),

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN GEORGE MIDDLETON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

J. LAWRENCE KELL, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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Clerk to the Public Health Department:

JOE HODGSON.

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## General Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)—110,118.

Rateable Value at 1/4/54—£75,335.

Registrar General's estimate of Home Population, mid-year 1953—18,600.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£265.

The chief industries are agriculture, coal mining and stone quarrying.

## CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

I am indebted to the Surveyor, Mr. F. Blenkinsopp, for supplying me with the following table showing the monthly rainfall in the Upper Teesdale area during the past five years:—

Rainfall at Latitude 54°39 North, Upper Teesdale.

Month.	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Jan.	... 2.92	3.76	1.52	4.46	1.67
Feb.	... 5.52	8.15	6.60	1.43	2.84
Mar.	... 2.27	2.53	4.34	3.90	6.97
Apr.	... 6.14	4.61	4.52	2.93	4.78
May	... 2.23	2.64	3.97	1.68	2.89
June	... 0.63	2.39	1.43	2.67	3.76
July	... 3.32	3.60	1.91	2.85	4.49
Aug.	... 2.37	8.27	4.70	5.09	4.58
Sept.	... 2.36	8.78	3.02	5.02	4.58
Oct.	... 6.05	4.43	1.14	7.35	2.86
Nov.	... 8.62	5.77	10.75	4.05	6.06
Dec.	... 11.12	4.08	8.74	4.58	8.10

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

		Total	Male	Female
LIVE-BIRTHS.	Legitimate )	293	( 139	140
	Illegitimate )		( 8	6

LIVE-BIRTH RATE—15.8 per 1,000 home population.

ADJUSTED RATE —18.3 do. do.

(Corresponding rate for England and Wales—15.5.

			Total	Male	Female
STILL-BIRTHS.	Legitimate )	1	( Legit. 1	—	1
	Illegitimate )		( Illegit. —	—	—

Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 home population—0.05.

(Corresponding Rate for England and Wales—0.35.

	Total	Male	Female
DEATHS.	197	109	88
Death-rate per 1,000 home population—	10.6		
Adjusted rate—	11.2		
For England and Wales	—11.3		
For 160 Smaller Towns	—11.3		

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

		Male.	Female
Total	... ..	2	2
Legitimate	... ..	2	2
Illegitimate	... ..	0	0

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE.

		Male.	Female
Total	... ..	2	1
Legitimate	... ..	2	1
Illegitimate	... ..	0	0

### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 live-births	... ..	13.7
England and Wales	... ..	26.8
160 Smaller Towns	... ..	24.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live-births	... ..	14.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live-births	... ..	—

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory System ...	1	2	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	0	0	0
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections ... ..	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	0	1
Measles ... ..	0	0	0
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	1	0	1
Cancer (All Types) ... ..	13	14	27
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	0	0	0
Diabetes ... ..	1	0	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	16	19	35
Coronary Disease, angina ... ..	23	10	33
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	2	3
Other Heart Disease ... ..	17	15	32
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	7	7	14
Influenza ... ..	1	0	1
Pneumonia ... ..	2	4	6
Bronchitis ... ..	7	3	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	3	3	6
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	2	0	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth & Abortion ...	0	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	6	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	3	0	3
All Other Accidents ... ..	1	1	2
Suicide ... ..	4	0	4
Homicide and Operations of War ...	0	0	0
	<hr/> 109	<hr/> 88	<hr/> 197

## General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A Central Public Health Laboratory, controlled by a joint committee, representing the County Council of Durham, the City of Newcastle, and the County Boroughs of Gateshead and Tynemouth, has been provided to assist practitioners in the diagnosis of diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases, etc.



The Laboratory is situated in Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Facilities are also provided at Bishop Auckland General Hospital, Pathological Department, for urgent bacteriological examinations.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

Table A.

	Bishop Auckland (No. 14 Control) Area *	Bd. Castle Urban and Rural Districts
Ambulance Controls ...	1	Nil
Clerk-telephonists ...	4	Nil
Ambulance Depots ...	5	2
Ambulances ...	15	2
Sitting-case cars ...	Nil	Nil
Driver-Attendants ...	39	4

\* Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts form part of this Control Area, the column adjoining showing the depots, etc., actually situated within the districts. The whole of the facilities provided in the Control Area are available to the districts. The Ambulance Control is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed by 4 clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service.

Table B.

Summary of work done during 1953 by vehicles stationed in Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.

#### Cases Carried.

Journeys.	Stretcher.	Sitting.	Total.	Mileage.
1105	568	4579	5147	66377

NOTE.—In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots within the Control Area and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in sanitary district order and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

#### HOME NURSING.

Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. By an agreement concluded by the Durham County Nursing Association, the Durham County Council have

delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, which now operates under the general supervision of the County Medical Officer. This arrangement has necessitated the integration and co-ordination by the County Nursing Association of the services formerly provided by individual district nursing associations and the transfer of administration to the County Association.

The arrangements whereby the domiciliary midwife service in certain areas of the County was provided on an agency basis by district nursing associations are continued under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the County Nursing Association acting as the agent.

Both services are now available free of charge.

In this area the following districts are served by resident nurses who provide general, midwifery and maternity nursing services in their districts, viz:—Butterknowle, Cockfield, Evenwood and Ramshaw, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staindrop, and Gainford. In the case of Eggleston, services are provided by the North Riding of Yorkshire County Nursing Association.

#### TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Child Welfare Centres administered by the Durham County Council are held at Butterknowle, Cockfield, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staindrop, and Witton Park. Temporary School Clinics are provided at Evenwood C.E. School and Butterknowle County School. Weekly sessions, attended by an Acting School Nurse, are held at these clinics.

#### HOSPITALS, PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of the hospitals controlled by the South-West Durham Hospital Management Committee. The Marwood Hospital, situated in this area and formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, has now been taken over as a private residence. There are no other hospitals in the district.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

1. WATER. Supplies from the Tees Valley Water Board were satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity.

In September, complaints were received about the quality of the water supplied by the Durham County Water Board. The area of supply comprises the districts of Butterknowle, Evenwood, Ramshaw, Toft Hill and Etherley, and samples of water taken in these districts for bacteriological examination were found to be unsatisfactory. Further samples were taken

at frequent intervals and although by the end of the year there was an improvement in the degree of purity, it could not be said that the supplies were free from suspicion.

Towards the end of October, notices were issued both in the Press and by handbills, advising residents in the area supplied by the Board to boil water before use for drinking purposes.

Amongst the possible causes for these conditions suggested by the Engineers to the Board are the uncovered subsidiary reservoirs still in use and which are liable to contamination from bird droppings or from dust carried from a distance. One of these open storage reservoirs is situated at Toft Hill and this has now been put out of use. A new covered reservoir is under construction.

Bacteriological examinations were made of the following water supplies controlled by the Council:—Stainton, Cockfield, Woodland, Newbiggin and Middleton-in-Teesdale. In the case of Stainton, Cockfield and Woodland, the reports received were satisfactory.

#### NEWBIGGIN-IN-TEESDALE.

Sample Taken.	Results.
23-4-53.	Grade 1. Highly satisfactory.
28-9-53.	Grade 4. Unsatisfactory.
5-10-53.	Grade 2. Satisfactory.

It may be noted that during the summer months there was a comparatively high rainfall in Upper Teesdale (May 2.89 ins., June 3.76 ins., July 4.49 ins.). This suggests that a certain amount of surface water may have reached the spring chambers.

#### MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

Sample Taken.	Results.
23-4-53.	Grade 3. Suspicious.
15-9-53.	Grade 3. Suspicious.
* 5-10-53.	Grade 1. Highly satisfactory.

\* From a subsidiary supply under the control of the Council.

One of the main sources of supply is that known as the Marlebeck Spring. This supply is collected from a disused lead-mine drift and although the water from this source is enclosed, there is a likelihood of some percolation of surface water through the roof of the gallery, particularly near the entrance. The Surveyor has proposed running a concrete pipe further up the drift for a distance of about 20 yards to eliminate this possible source of contamination. The proposal was adopted by the Council.

## WOODLAND AND COPLEY.

A scheme for augmenting the Woodland and Copley water supply by harnessing the spring north of Lynesack Vicarage was abandoned later in the year owing to the probability of leakage of the supply into old colliery workings and to possible further loss from mining subsidence in the future. It was stated that the cost of preventing this would be prohibitive.

The Surveyor was instructed to investigate the possibility of augmenting the Woodland and Copley water supply from the Cockfield Water Undertaking.

## COCKFIELD, HILTON AND WACKERFIELD.

It was reported in November that the whole of the work in connection with the new scheme of supply for these villages was now completed.

## EGGLESTON.

In view of the urgent need of a satisfactory water supply for this parish, the Surveyor submitted to the Council a proposal for the use of nine springs situated on Eggleston Common on the east side of the Main Stanhope road, for the provision of a satisfactory gravitational supply to the parish. Later the number of springs was reduced to seven owing to the failure of two of the springs.

In September, 1952, Messrs. Balfour & Sons, Consulting Engineers to the Council, reported adversely on the proposed use of these springs, their objections being based mainly on geological grounds, but in view of the urgency of the need, the Council has insisted on the scheme going forward.

It must be noted that in a report on the analysis of samples taken from these springs, it was stated by the County's Public Health Laboratories that the "bacterial quality is not in all cases of the high standard appropriate to a public supply," and that although by adequate impounding, this slight contamination (by animals and birds) might be eliminated, "provision for applying an efficient system of chlorination is advisable."

At the present time the scheme is still under consideration by the Ministries concerned.

## BILDERSHAW.

In November, the Council was informed by the Clerk to the Durham County Water Board that the work on the scheme for this area would commence about the middle of the following month.



## MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

A scheme was submitted to the Council by the Surveyor for the use of the Lodge Syke spring as an additional supply. The existing spring would be impounded in concrete chambers and surrounded by animal proof fencing. The scheme was approved by the Council.

## WATER SHORTAGES.

No water shortages were reported during the year in any part of the area.

## Particulars of Dwelling-houses supplied from Public Water Mains.

Parish	Present Estimated Population	Total Number of Houses	Number of House supplied from Public Water Mains	
			(a) Direct to House	(b) By stand-pipe
Evenwood ... ..	3091	1229	1192	8
Hamsterley ... ..	366	127	80	1
Lynesack & Softley	1826	583	540	6
South Bedburn ...	255	66	—	—
Etherley ... ..	1835	403	353	2
Woodland ... ..	351	128	122	3
Cleatlam ... ..	108	28	24	—
Gainford ... ..	798	296	269	11
Headlam ... ..	75	25	23	—
Langton ... ..	94	22	19	1
Ingleton ... ..	366	119	96	10
Staindrop ... ..	1209	392	355	11
Westwick ... ..	117	24	19	—
Whorlton ... ..	213	70	48	—
Morton Tinnmouth	25	6	—	—
Langleydale & Shotton	139	35	11	—
Marwood ... ..	299	147	90	—
Raby & Keverstone	224	57	6	13
Bolam ... ..	81	34	30	—
Hilton ... ..	76	19	—	—
Streatlam & Stainton	315	160	134	—
Cockfield ... ..	2059	684	666	9
Eggleston ... ..	414	169	—	—
Forest & Frith ...	384	118	22	3
Middleton-in-Teesdale	1602	574	484	58
Newbiggin ... ..	244	83	18	29
Wackerfield ... ..	82	28	20	6
Winston ... ..	474	128	118	1

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

### MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

It was reported in October that work on the new Sewage Works had now commenced.

### INGLETON.

No further progress was made with this scheme during the year.

### WHORLTON.

The Council decided to postpone the construction of new works for the present but proposed to replace the existing effluent outfall pipe to the Whorlton Beck by a new outlet to the River Tees near the point of entry of the beck. In giving their consent to these proposals, the Council was requested by the Wear and Tees River Board "in the meantime to make the best possible use of the existing works.

### STAINTON.

In September it was reported that full particulars of this scheme had been forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

### COPELAND ROW, EVENWOOD.

No further progress was made with this scheme during the year.

### COCKFIELD, ESPELLEY, HIGH AND LOW LANDS.

In November, an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government investigated this scheme informally, when representatives of the Durham County Council and the Wear and Tees River Board were present.

## 3. PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

During the year ending 31st December, 1953, 49 individual grants were made by the Council for privy conversions. An additional 53 conversions were carried out in a combined scheme in the parish of Evenwood.

## 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The greater part of the area is covered by direct labour. Scavenging is undertaken by Motor Vehicles (Karrier-Bantam). One small area which is not suitable for motor transport is let by contract.

Number of wagons—10.

# Number of full-time employees:

Foreman-Mechanic	...	...	1
Foreman's Assistant	...	...	1
Driver Fillers	...	...	6
Fillers	...	...	6
Bulldozer Driver	...	...	1

An average of 5 additional casual fillers were employed throughout the year.

Number of Garages—2 (one owned by the Council and one rented).

Scavenging Areas—7.

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Number of closets, bins., etc., emptied	...	...	...	269,472
Number of loads of refuse carried to tips	...	...	...	4,232
Number of miles travelled by vehicles	...	...	...	34,679
Number of gallons of petrol used	...	...	...	4,401½
Number of pints of oil used	...	...	...	292

## CONTROLLED TIPPING.

A Fiat 25C Tractor and Equipment for use in controlled tipping of refuse was purchased by the Council during the year at a cost of £1,830.

The tractor has already been in use on several of the Council's tips and has been found invaluable for excavating and levelling over the surfaces of the tips.

## 5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Following is a summary of the work done in the Sanitary Inspectors' Department during the year 1953:—

### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

			Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwelling-houses and Schools:					
Foul Conditions	...	...	—	—	—
Structural Defects	...	...	46	4	37
Overcrowding	...	...	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	7	117	118
			(mostly conversions)		
House Drainage	...	...	17	—	1
Water Supply	...	...	3	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	3	—	1
Refuse Accommodation	...	...	23	4	7
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	8	—	4
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	3	—	3
			<hr/>		
Totals	...		110	125	171

II. WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.	Number
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... ..	98
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ... ..	50
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ... ..	—
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ... ..	—
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ... ..	37
Samples of Food and Drugs found Adulterated ... ..	—

III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... ..	—
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	1
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	—
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things ... ..	—
Convictions for exposures of infected persons or things ... ..	—

IV. GENERAL.	
Number of ash-pit privies converted into ash-closets ... ..	—
Number of ash-pit privies converted into water closets ... ..	—
Number of ash-closets converted into water-closets ... ..	146
Total number of Water-closets in District ... ..	3,408
Total number of ash-closets in District ... ..	2,404
Total number of ash-pit privies in District ... ..	35
Total number of pail closets in District ... ..	95

**Statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors' Department.**

A. GENERAL SANITATION.	No. of Visits.
Water Supplies ... ..	209
Drainage ... ..	216
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	1
Offensive Trades ... ..	2
Tents, Vaus and Sheds ... ..	24
Factories ... ..	12
Refuse Collection ... ..	317
Refuse Disposal ... ..	206
Rats and Mice ... ..	205
Schools ... ..	3
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits ... ..	139
Sanitary Accommodation ... ..	607
Dangerous Buildings ... ..	18
Petrol Regulations ... ..	17
Smoke Observation ... ..	21



## B. HOUSING.

Under Public Health Acts:—

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	205
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Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	36
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Under Housing Acts:—

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	86
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Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	61
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Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	325
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Overcrowding:—

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	57
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C. INFECTIOUS DISEASES	...	...	...	...	1
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## D. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Visits to slaughterhouses and general meat inspection visits	...	...	...	...	...	15
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Visits to grocers	...	...	...	...	...	8
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Visits to dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	4
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Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	3
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Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	12
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	4
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	1
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Visits in connection with sampling:—

Milk—bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	30
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Milk—tubercle bacilli	...	...	...	...	...	24
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Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	2
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Total	...	2,871
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## 6. DISINFESTATION.

### RODENT CONTROL.

Mr. Kell writes as follows:—

The year under consideration is the first full year in which the Council has operated a comprehensive service for killing rats. This has come about by the extension of the service to farms. Every farm in the area has been surveyed and treatments have been carried out on 78 occasions by agreement with the farmers. Farms rank as business premises and all work is re-chargeable on a time and material basis. It is expected to complete a farm survey every year. The routine sewer treatment, and treatment of houses and business premises, has continued with success.

## 7. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register.	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers pr'ected
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	38	10	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ... ..	45	12	1	Nil

## CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—
Total	1	—

Number of Out-workers—2 (making, etc., wearing apparel).

## SMOKE ABATEMENT. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 101-106.

During the year further complaints were received of grit nuisances occurring in or near houses situated near Messrs. Sadler & Co.'s Coke Ovens at Evenwood.

In June, the Regional Fuel Engineer, Ministry of Fuel and Power, was approached with a view to a meeting being arranged to discuss the difficulties of this problem. This meeting was held in October at the office of the Manager of the Works. In the opinion of the Regional Fuel Engineer, Messrs. Sadler & Co. had co-operated to the best of their ability in matters of fuel efficiency and in connection with the troubles arising on smoke and grit emission. He suggested that the Council might approach the Teesside Smoke Abatement Committee who were able to offer sound advice on these matters, and that deposit gauges should be placed in the vicinity of the works in order that the amount of grit emission might be measured.

The Council agreed to appoint a representative to attend meetings of the Smoke Abatement Committee and they also decided to purchase two deposit gauges to be placed in suitable positions near the works.

## HOUSING.

During the year 88 houses were completed and occupied. This figure shows an increase of 34 compared with the previous year.

### Distribution of Houses built and occupied during the year.

Parish.	Two-bedroom type.	Three-bedroom type.	Total.
Etherley ...	15	27	42
Stainton ...	1	2	3
Gainford ...	1	4	5
Evenwood ...	10	20	30
Staindrop ...	2	6	8
	29	59	88

### Statement of Housing Situation at end of 1953.

Parish.	Houses completed & occupied by 31-12-53.			In course of construction
Bolam ...	...	...	3	—
Cockfield ...	...	...	78	—
Evenwood ...	...	...	104	46
Etherley ...	...	...	59	—
Gainford ...	...	...	52	32
Middleton ...	...	...	38	22
Staindrop ...	...	...	44	32
Streatlam and Stainton	...	...	10	—
Woodland ...	...	...	8	—
Whorlton ...	...	...	4	—
Butterknowle ...	...	...	4	—
Ingleton ...	...	...	22	—
Winston ...	...	...	6	—
Copley ...	...	...	8	—
Hamsterley ...	...	...	6	—
		Totals ...	446	132

### Building by Private Enterprise.

During the year eight houses were built and occupied in the area and five were in course of erection.

### Building by the War Department.

126 Wates concrete non-traditional houses which were under construction in Stainton Military Camp since the previous year, were completed by the end of the year. A school for infant and junior children from service families is now functioning in the camp. This school is staffed and administered by Durham County Education Committee.

## Moveable Dwellings. Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269.

At the end of the year a total of 25 moveable dwellings had been licensed by the local authority. In each case an inspection was made of the site and approval given to the sanitary arrangements before the Council was asked to issue a licence.

## Housing Act, 1936.

### Statement of Properties in Confirmed Clearance Orders at 31st December, 1953.

No. of Order.	Date of Order.	Situation of Property.	No. of			
			houses in Order.	Demolished.	No. empty.	No. occupied
1.	18/5/38.	Jubilee Terr, Evenwood ...	2	Nil	Nil	2
2a.	18/5/38.	Gordon Gill, Ramshaw, Even'd	4	4	4	Nil
				(partly)		
3.	18/5/38.	Hamsterley ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
5.	18/4/39.	Manor Street, Evenwood ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
6.	18/4/39.	Toft Hill ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
7.	18/4/39.	Magdalene Place, Evenwood ...	2	Nil	2	Nil
8.	18/5/38.	Bildershaw Bk., W. Auckland	2	Nil	1	1
10.	18/4/39.	Quarry Houses, Toft Hill ...	2	Nil	2	Nil
11.	18/4/39.	Lane Head, Copley ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
13.	18/4/39.	Butwell Terrace, Hamsterley	4	3	Nil	1
14.	18/4/39.	Crake Scarr, Woodland ...	3	Nil	2	1
15.	18/4/39.	Vanes Hartley Cottages, Cockfield ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
16.	18/4/39.	Garforth Pond, Marwood, Barnard Castle ...	3	Nil	3	Nil
17.	18/4/39.	Queens Head Wynd, Staindrop	2	Nil	Nil	2
18.	18/4/39.	Brookside, Staindrop ...	6	Nil	Nil	6
19.	19/4/39.	Brown's Buildings, Ingleton ...	4	Nil	2	2

### Statement of Properties Subject to Demolition Orders at 31/12/53.

In all, 49 houses have been subject to Demolition Orders and of these 10 have been demolished, 27 are still standing but unoccupied, and the remaining 12 are occupied under licence.

The licensed properties are situated as follows:—

3, Hunters Well, High Etherley.

150, Toft Hill.

Beckside, Staindrop (owner J. Sams).

Beckside, Staindrop.

1 and 3, Belts Gill, Etherley.

2, 7 and 26, The Oaks, Evenwood.

1, 4 and 5, Sandhole, Evenwood.

I must again draw the Council's attention to the fact that there are still 27 houses under Demolition Orders which are unoccupied and which have not yet been demolished.

## Temporary Buildings.

There was one family remaining in occupation of a timber hut situated in Coach Road Wood Camp, Staindrop, at the end of the year.

## Applications for Council Houses.

The demand for Council houses continues to be high and is apparently insatiable. I append below the approximate figures for housing applications in some of the larger parishes:—

Parish.	No. of applic's at 31/12/51.	No. of applic's at 31/12/52.	No. of applic's at 31/12/53.
Cockfield ... ..	81	101	80
Etherley ... ..	61	47	56
Evenwood ... ..	81	83	103
Gainford ... ..	32	46	60
Butterknowle ... ..	19	16	7
Middleton & Newbiggin	31	32	34
Staindrop ... ..	43	82	65
Woodland ... ..	17	18	14

## Housing Act, 1949. Section 20-25.

Improvement grants to the value of £3,529 15s. 0d. were awarded by the Council in regard to 13 properties situated within the rural district.

In one case a single storied shop was converted into a dwelling house, an additional storey being added to the premises.

## 8. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

There are at the present time three Dealers registered with the Council under the Regulations. In addition two Supplementary licences permitting the special designation "Pasteurised," and two permitting the special designation "Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised" have been granted.

### CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Milk Supplies only. Samples are submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, or to the Public Health Laboratories, Northallerton.

Milk samples from the supplies of 12 retailers were taken during the year by the Sanitary Department.

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1947. SECTION 20. BRUCELLA ABORTUS.

Samples of milk from 12 retailers were tested bacteriologically for tubercle, and all samples were found to be negative.

Two bulk samples from individual retailers were posi-



tive by biological test for brucella abortus. In one of these cases the retailer (who was not a producer) obtained his supplies from four different sources, including a large dairy company. Separate samples were taken of milk from the individual sources and in two cases tests showed a positive biological reaction. The matter is still under investigation. In the second case, the retailer, who was also a producer, had been purchasing an additional supply from another retailer whose supply was normally sent for pasteurisation. His own herd has been tested for brucella but there was no history of abortion in the herd.

In all the above cases methylene blue tests were made for keeping quality and three of the samples were found to be unsatisfactory.

#### ICE CREAM. (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS.

There was one retailer-manufacturer and 42 retailers registered in the district at the end of the year.

#### ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

No samples were taken during the year but it may be noted that all retailers in the area now sell pre-packed ice-cream.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. SECTION 13.

##### BUTCHERS. MAKING-UP ROOMS.

Although improvements on recommendations made by the Sanitary Inspectors have already been carried out in certain cases, there are still instances where the conditions in which meat is prepared and made up for sale to the public are not too satisfactory. I hope that during the present year (1954) further inspections of butchers' premises will be made and improvements carried out where necessary.

##### FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

Two cases were notified under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year. The suspected food was a tin of meat (? Australian Tinned Tongue) purchased in the district. The symptoms occurred in a husband and wife, both aged 59 years, residing in Hamsterley. In both cases symptoms complained of were indefinite except that the husband suffered from some vomiting. The symptoms occurred between 6—12 hours after partaking of the food. No more tins of this meat were held in stock by the retailer. There was a certain amount of fat remaining in the suspected tin and this was sent to the laboratory for examination with negative results. In view of the indefinite evidence, I consider these cases were not confirmed as cases of food poisoning.

## SLAUGHTERING.

There is a centralised Slaughter House, situated in Barnard Castle and serving three districts, viz., Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts, and Startforth Rural District.

Meat inspections are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector employed by the Barnard Castle Urban District Council, holiday and sickness duty being undertaken by the two Sanitary Inspectors of the Barnard Castle Rural District Council. All three officers hold the Meat and Food Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

I append a summary of the work carried out by the Meat Inspector during the year:—

### Public Health Meat Regulations.

The following table shows the animals killed, inspected and found unfit for human consumption at the Slaughterhouse during the year ending 31st December, 1953:—

	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs		
	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	Cott
Number Killed	1027	53	86	93	—	115	4380	204	1201	103	6
Number Inspected	1027	53	86	93	—	115	4363	204	1201	103	6
All diseases except Tuberculosis											
Whole carcasses condemned	—	11	—	28	—	49	1	51	1	8	—
Part of Carcass or organ condemned	193	25	21	54	—	17	43	32	40	35	—
% of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	18.79	67.9	24.4	88.2	—	57.4	1.0	40.7	3.4	41.7	—
Tuberculosis only											
Whole carcasses condemned	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Part of carcass or organ condemned	52	4	6	4	—	—	—	—	63	—	—
% of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	5.7	7.5	8.1	4.3	—	—	—	—	5.2	3.9	—

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

**DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.**

There was a slight fall in the number of children under 15 who received a primary course of immunisation during the year (257 in 1952) though the number immunised in the older age group (5-14 years) increased somewhat.

Although the response to immunisation may still be considered satisfactory, I find that in some cases parents are delaying making the necessary arrangements with their doctors so that the child does not receive the necessary protection until a later age than is advisable. A small proportion of parents refuse to have their children inoculated at all, the usual reason given is that the father does not believe in it.

Facilities for immunisation were provided as in previous years at the County Welfare Clinics for children under 5 years and by private practitioners for children of any age.

	Age at date of Final Injection.		Total Under
	0-4 years.	5-14 years.	15
Number of Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the authority's area in the 12 months ending 31st December, 1953	175	71	246
Number given reinforcing injection during year	...	...	155

I am pleased to report that there were no cases of diphtheria notified in the district.

There was a very considerable fall in the number of cases of scarlet fever (5 confirmed cases compared with 37 for the previous year and 32 in 1951). It was necessary to admit only one of these to hospital owing to isolation difficulties at home. Instructional leaflets were sent out by post to the families of cases nursed at home and, whenever possible, visits were paid to ensure that adequate isolation was carried out. The notification rate was 0.32 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 1.39 for England and Wales.

The incidence of measles continued to be high. In the early part of the year the main incidence was at Staindrop and South Cleatlam. In May and June there were a number of cases in the Cockfield area. The notification rate was 11.66 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 12.01 for the previous year and a rate of 12.36 for England and Wales.



There was an increase in the incidence of whooping cough (43 cases compared with 24 in 1952). The notification rate for whooping cough was 2.31 compared with a rate of 3.58 for England and Wales.

#### ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

Two cases occurred in the month of September. One was a young man aged 28 years living in an isolated farm in Harwood-in-Teesdale. He was admitted to hospital on 4th September but he died on the following day.

The other case was also a young man aged 27 years living in Newbiggin-in-Teesdale. No signs of paralysis developed. He was admitted to the Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital and I am pleased to report that he subsequently made a good recovery.

#### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

		Admitted to Hospital.	Diagnosis Not confirmed.	Total Cases
Scarlet Fever	... 6	1	1	5
Diphtheria	... —	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	... —	—	—	—
Erysipelas	... 3	—	—	3
Pneumonia	... 13	—	—	13
Ophthalmia	... —	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	... 1	1	—	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non Paralytic)	... 1	1	—	1
Enteric Fever	... —	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	... 2	2	—	2
Measles	... 216	—	—	216
Whooping Cough	... 44	—	1	43
Food Poisoning	... 2	—	2	—

## Analysis of the Total Cases (confirmed) in age groups.

	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Age un- known
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	3	9	7	22	0	2	0	0	0
Measles	5	46	62	90	9	2	0	0	2
Pneumonia	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	8	0
Ac. Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				* Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
35	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
45	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
55	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
65 and upwards	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	9	3	0	0	2	2	1	2

\* The figures given in the Registrar-General's Return of the number of deaths from Tuberculosis in the area do not conform with the records kept by the County Health Department or by this office. I have accordingly entered the figures as supplied to me by the County Health Department.



